

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0010] beginning at the bottom of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Because of the inflammatory component of restenosis, several anti-inflammatory agents have been used. For example, Rab et al. (*J. Am Coll. Cardiol.*, 18:1524-1528, 1991) administered glucocorticoids with or without colchicine to patients receiving stents and reported an increase in the incidence of coronary artery aneurysms. Valero et al. (*J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol.*, 31:513-519, 1998), introduced hydrocortisone-loaded microspheres into the arterial walls of rabbits during angioplasty. They reported that hydrocortisone-loaded microspheres were associated with a significant reduction in intimal hyperplasia. Strecker et al. (*Cardiovasc. Intervent. Radiol.*, 21:487-496, 1998), reported that dexamethasone-coated stents showed reduced neointimal hyperplasia in dogs when compared to non-coated stents. In contrast, Lee et al. (*Am. Heart J.*, 138:[~~304~~] 60-63, 1999), reported that single dose pretreatment with intravenous methylprednisolone before coronary stenting had no effect on the change in minimal lumen diameter at 6 months.